

The Center for Elder Rights

On September 14, 2000, the Center for Elder Rights was created within the Virginia Department for the Aging. The Center brings together under one umbrella a variety of legal, consumer, aging and long-term care information and assistance for older Virginians and their families. The Center expands the Department's well-publicized toll-free number as an elder rights information line for nationwide access to the Center's services. It also includes:

- ◆ Counseling for people with concerns about Medicare, Medicaid and other health insurance;
- ◆ Counseling on pensions and retirement benefits;
- ◆ A public guardianship program for indigent and incapacitated people who have no other suitable person to serve as a guardian;
- ◆ A National Resource Center to develop strategies for educating rural and geographically isolated older Virginians and their families about fraud, waste and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs;
- ◆ An ombudsman program to resolve problems encountered in long-term care facilities and community-based programs serving older Virginians;
- ◆ An attorney who prepares public and professional information, education and training materials, and oversees legal services provided by Virginia's Area Agencies on Aging;
- ◆ A registry of more than 100 attorneys across the Commonwealth who can provide legal services to indigent and low-income older Virginians;
- ◆ Staff who can provide information, guidance and counseling on a variety of aging and long-term care issues; and
- ◆ Partnerships with other organizations to ensure the rights of older Virginians.

If you need assistance, or are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact the Center for Elder Rights.



Center for Elder Rights

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